

REMARKS

A new Title and Abstract have been provided.

Annotated and replacement sheets in which reference numerals 21, 22, 23 were added to Figs. 10, 12, 14, respectively, are enclosed.

New claims 5-10 were drafted in accordance with U.S. practice and better distinguish over the prior art. Thus, with the aid of the reference numerals in the drawings, main claim 5 is directed to a coupling 3 having a pair of couplers 1, 2 and a bleed fitting 8. An annular gasket 9 is stationarily mounted on one of the couplers, and a tubular body 6 is slidably mounted within the other of the couplers. The outer wall of the body 6 is formed with a sealing surface 100 and with an outer channel 12 axially adjacent the sealing surface 100. During sliding movement of the body 6, the sealing surface 100 sealingly engages the gasket 9 in a sealed position (see Fig. 2), and the outer channel 12 is spaced from the gasket in a bleed position (see Fig. 3 or Fig. 4) to enable the fluid to bypass the gasket and pass to the bleed fitting 8 for release of pressure in the fluid.

U.S. Patent No. 4,077,433 does not teach the claimed invention. The gasket 42, as shown in Figs. 4-6, is not stationarily mounted, but is movable within the coupling. The outer wall of the movable coupler 30 is not formed with an outer sealing surface and an adjacent outer channel. The gasket 42 does engage an inner surface of the coupler 20, but the gasket 41 is never moved to a bleed position in which the gasket is spaced from an outer channel formed in an outer wall.

Allowance of claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-10 is respectfully requested.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to February 8, 2005. A check in the amount of \$60.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please add reference numerals 21, 22, 23 to Figs. 10, 12, 14, respectively, as shown in the annotated and replacement sheets following page 8.

with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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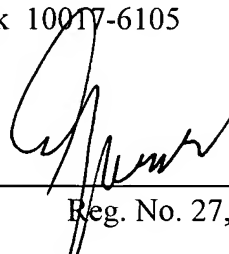
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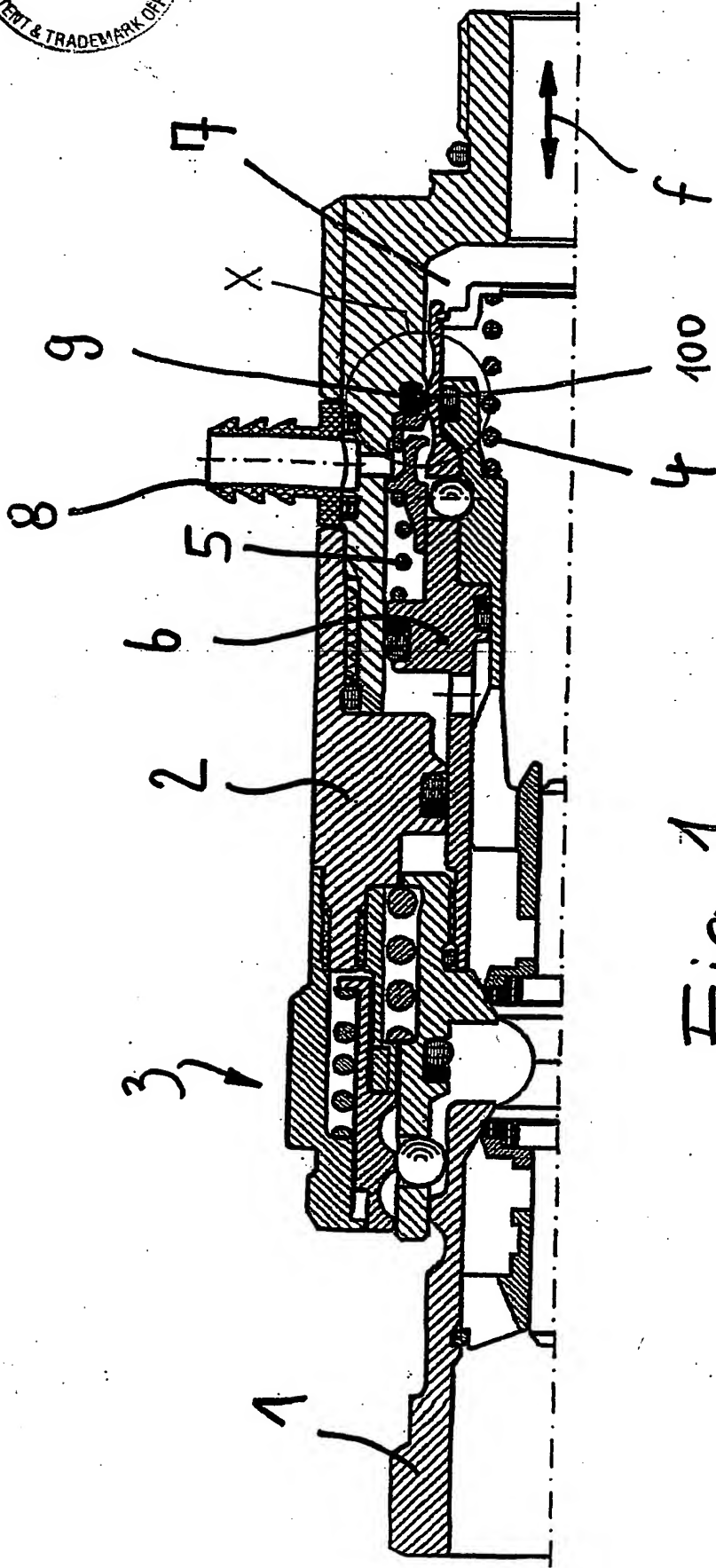
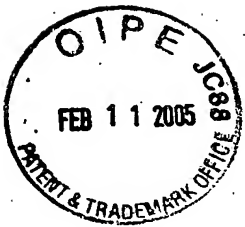


Fig. 1

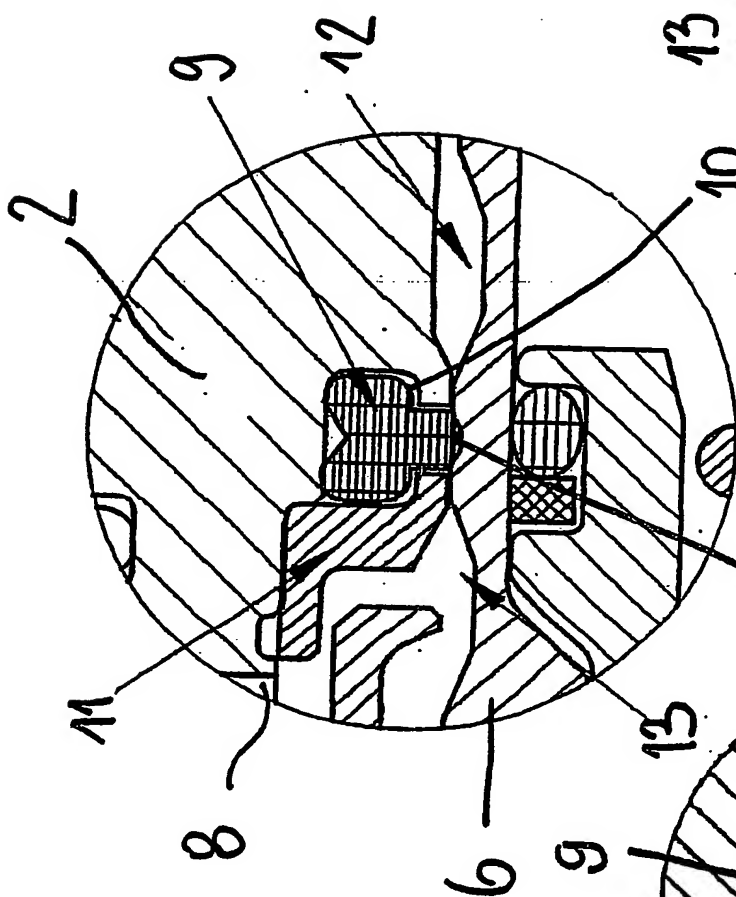


Fig. 2

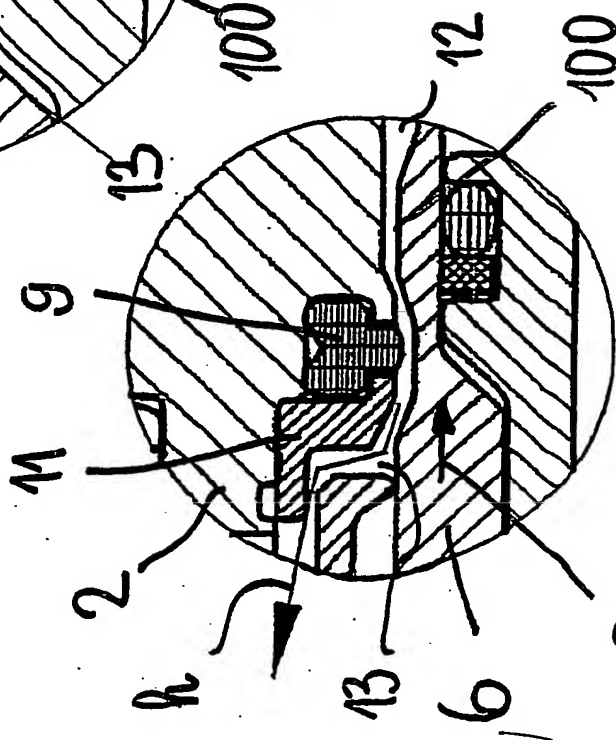


Fig. 3

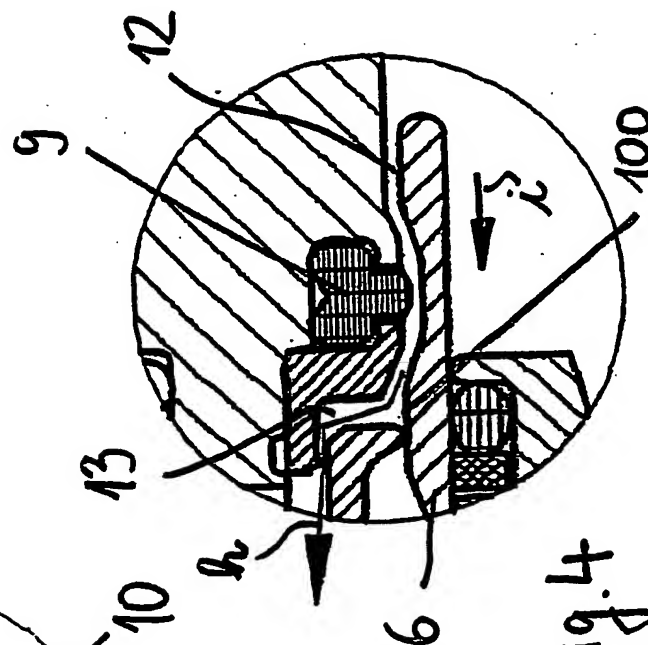


Fig. 4

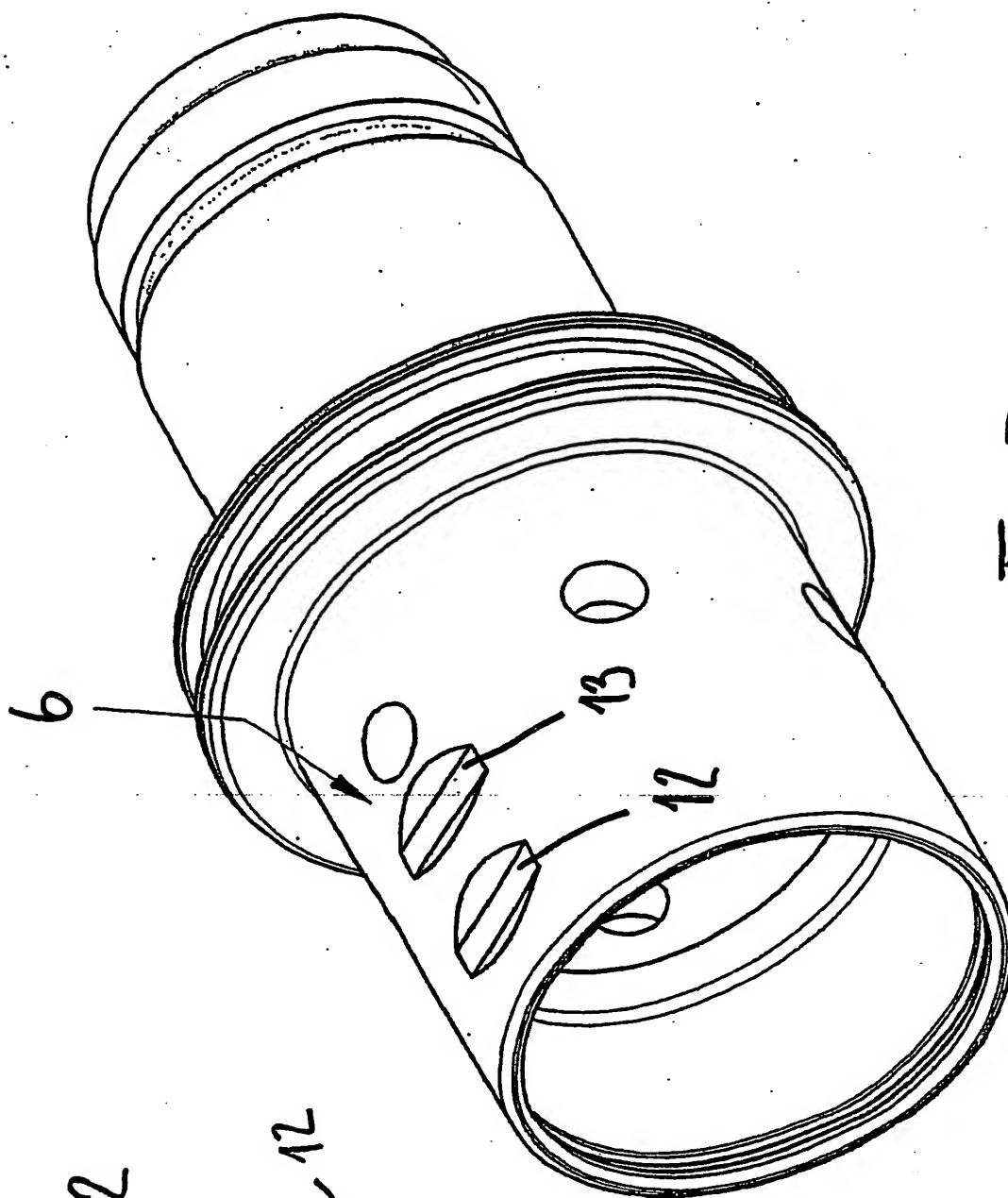


Fig. 5

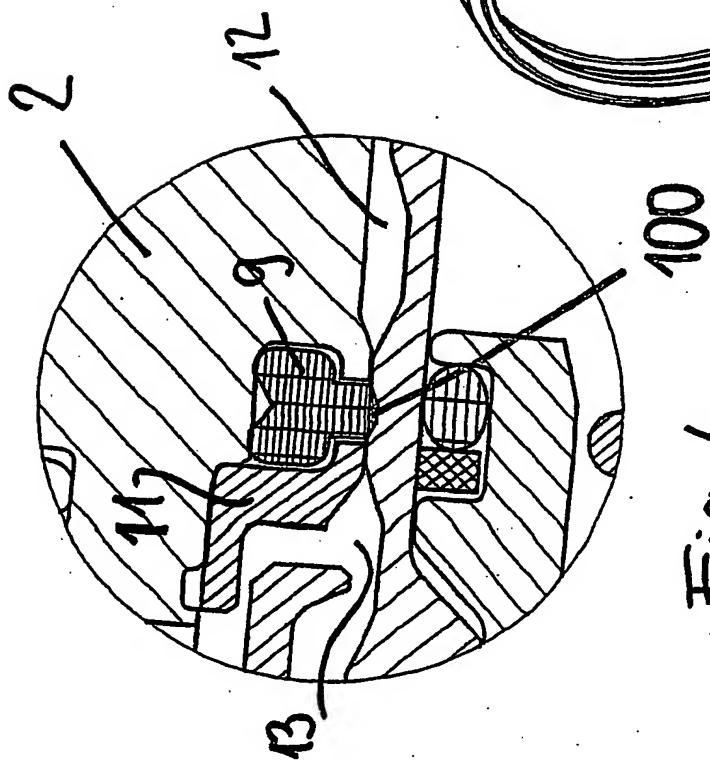


Fig. 6

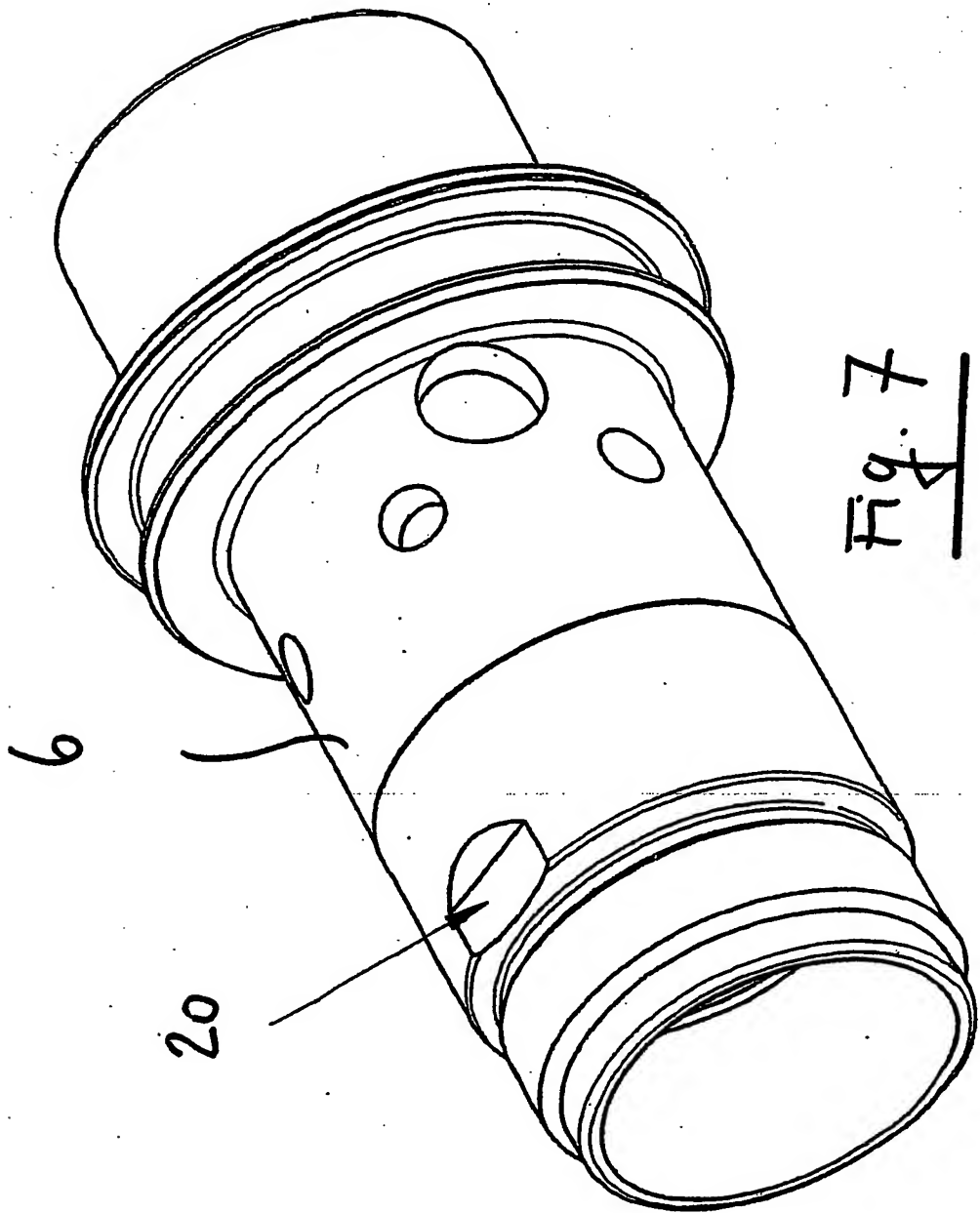


Fig. 7

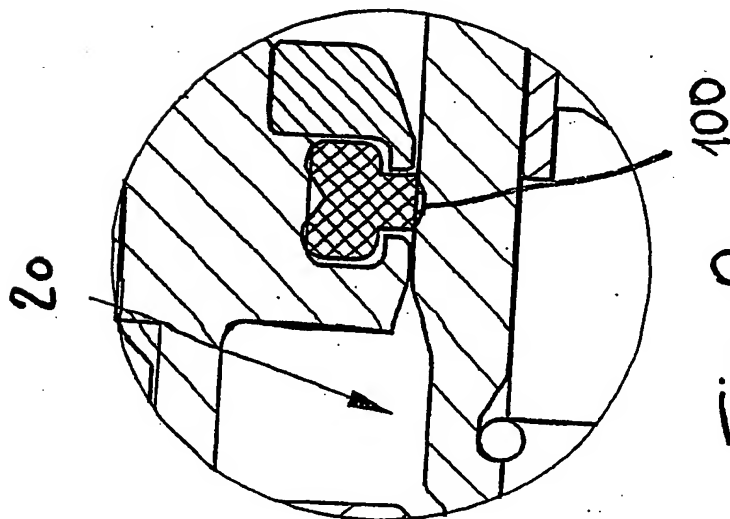


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

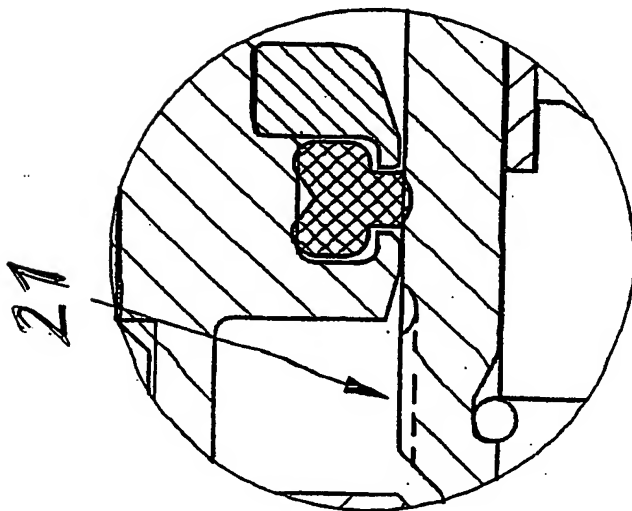


Fig. 10

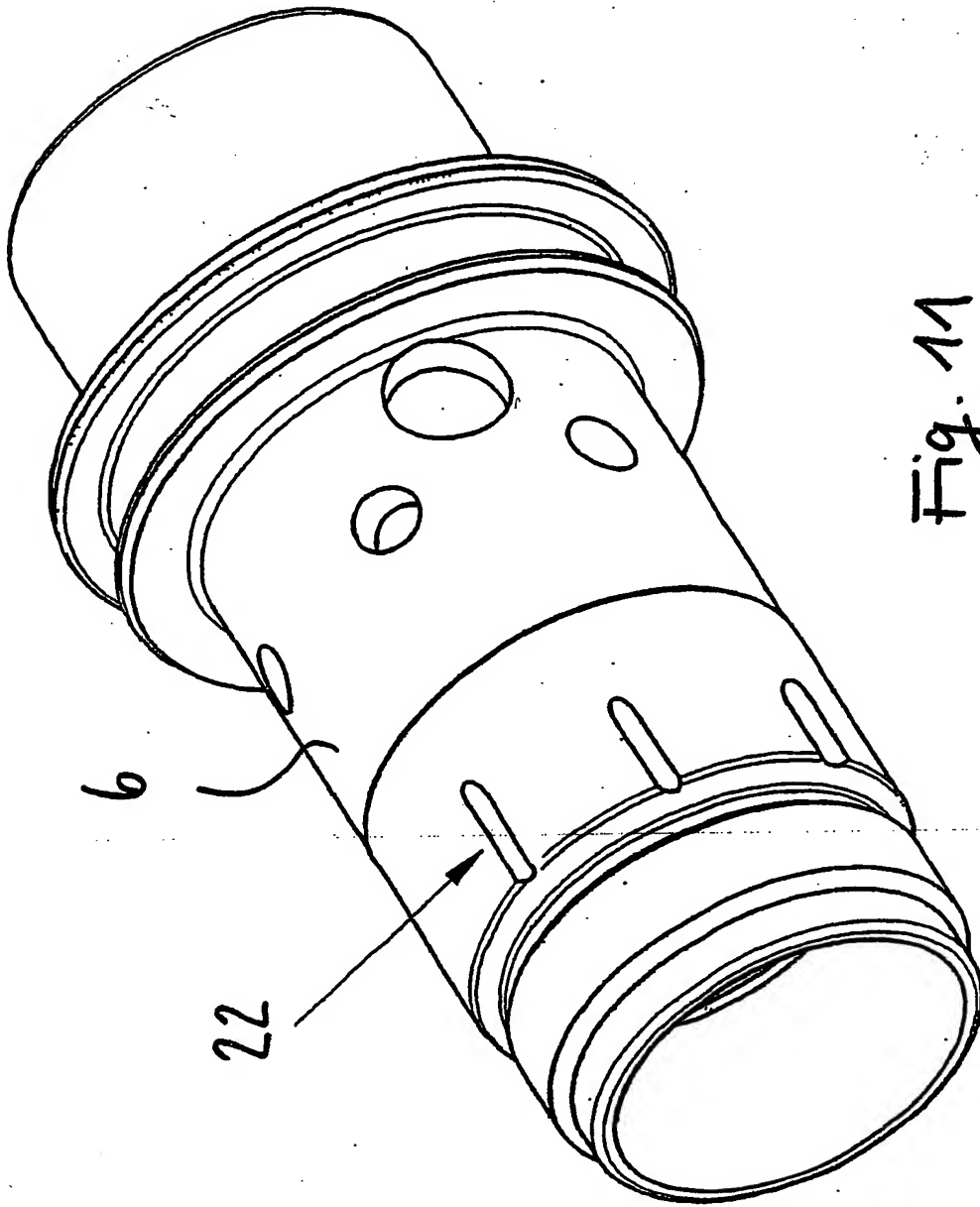


Fig. 11

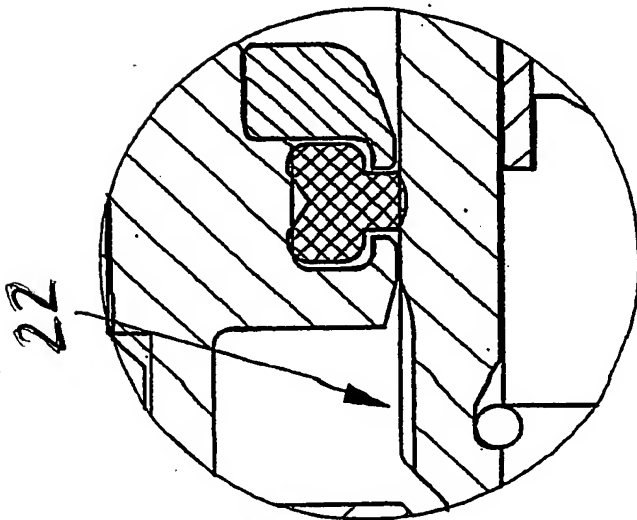


Fig. 12

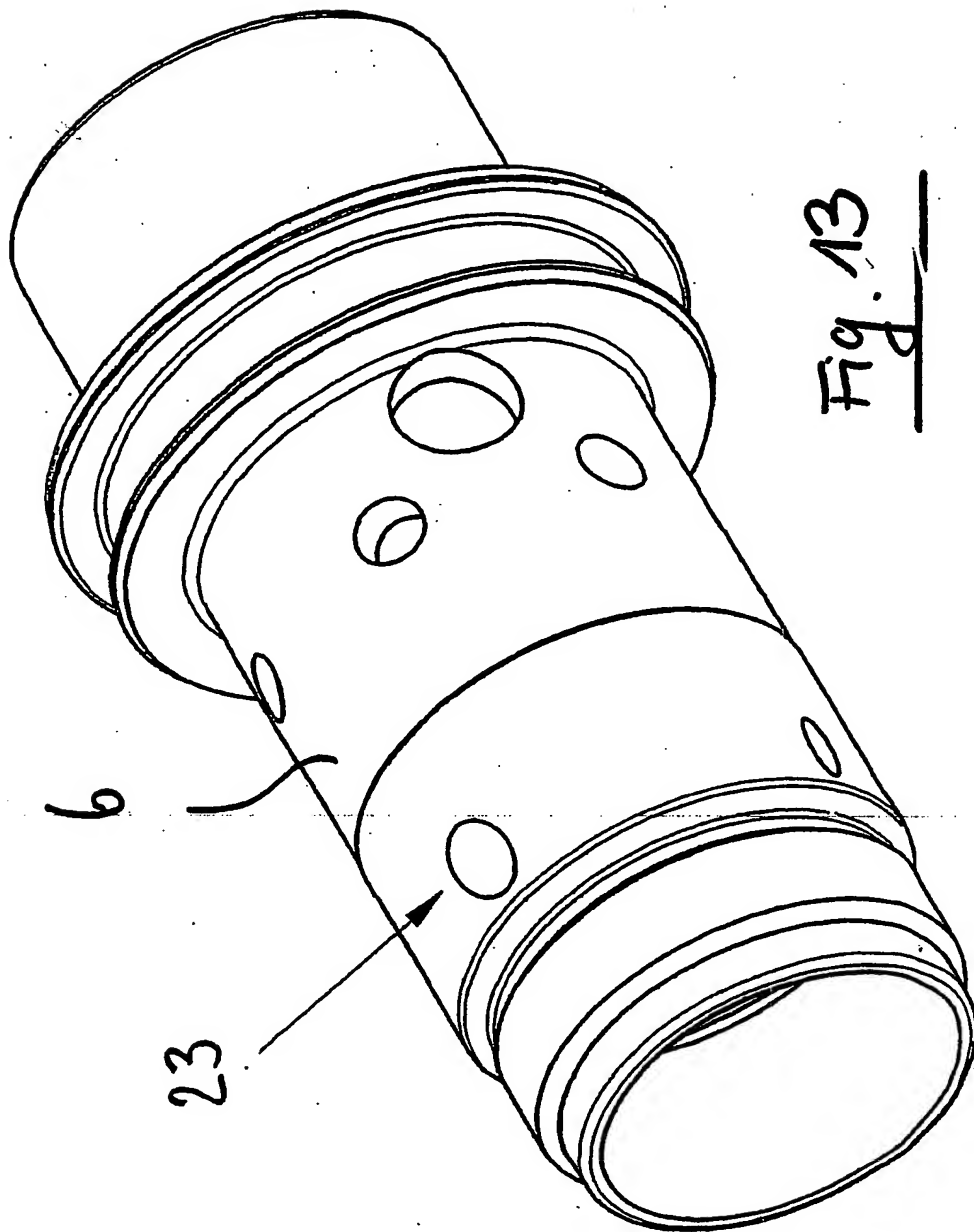


Fig. 13

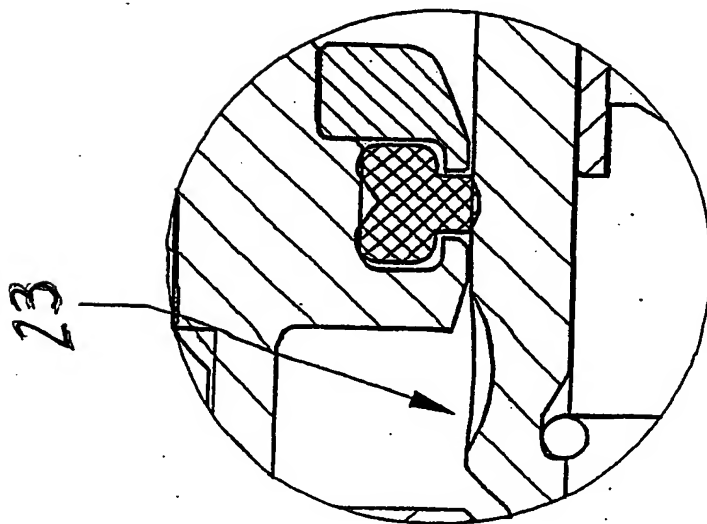


Fig. 14